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NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF

ELIZABETH ROBINSON SCOVL



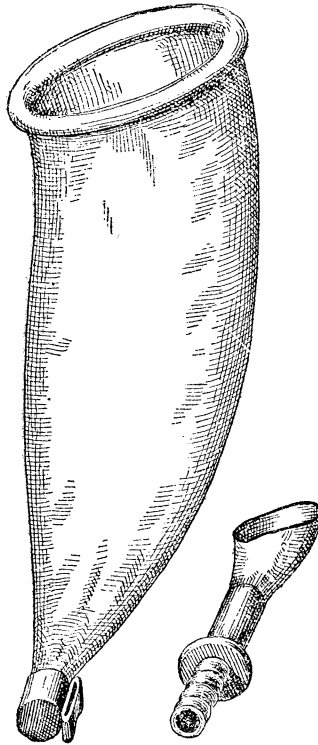
CARBOLIC ACID IN SMALLPOX.—The *New York and Philadelphia Medical Journal* has a synopsis of an article in the *Lancet* on this subject as follows: "Neech and Hodgson report the results of the further use of their method of treatment of smallpox by applications of pure carbolic acid. The pure liquid acid is applied with a small camel's-hair brush each day to the vesicle over a certain area of the body, commencing with the face. The applications are continued until the vesicles dry up. One hundred and thirty-six cases were treated. Of these, thirty-five were unvaccinated and four died—a mortality of 11.4 per cent.; one hundred and one were vaccinated, of whom one died—a mortality of 0.99 per cent. Carboluria was noted in only two cases. The acid caused no pain and completely relieved the itching. Ulceration in the pustular stage was prevented, and the tendency to scar formation was greatly lessened. The offensive odor was done away with, the fever range was lowered, and the risk of infection by aerial connection greatly lessened. Complications were entirely absent, and the patients were discharged with safety a week or two weeks before the usual time."

METHOD OF EXAMINING STOOLS FOR GALLSTONES AND OTHER SOLID BODIES.—Dr. Howard Lilienthal recommends the following method in the *Medical Record*: "Take a loop of telegraph wire a few inches greater in diameter than the entire top of the closet seat, and fasten to this a bag of at least two thicknesses of dressing-gauze or mosquito-netting. The bag may be sewn to the wire or simply held by safety-pins, but it should be made very full, so that when the hoop is in place the wire shall be well below the level of the seat and out of the way, while the bag shall hang down into the water at the bottom of the bowl. If the patient is not confined to bed, he defecates into the closet, and then simply opens the water-valve often enough to wash away all soluble and amorphous matter, while solid bodies will be left in the bag. If the patient is confined to bed, the stool must, of course, be carried to the closet. It is best not to put paper in with the stool. In rural districts where there may be no plumbing the same procedure may be followed, except that the water must be carried to the privy and poured through by hand."

OXYGEN IN VOMITING.—It is stated in *Treatment* that in the various forms of persistent vomiting, functional, reflex, and organic, no other means has proved as uniformly effectual as inhalation of oxygen. It is perfectly harmless under all conditions, requires no effort on the part of the patient, and involves no suffering nor after-effects of a disagreeable character. Being administered by the lungs, it not only acts independently of vomiting, which may continue for a time, but is peculiarly serviceable in such cases as those of gastric neurosis, irritability, inflammation, or ulcer, in which it is undesirable or useless to intro-

duce anything into the stomach, or after laparotomy, when, in addition to this, retching is particularly obnoxious.

A NEW FEMALE URINAL.—Dr. Frederick Grosse describes in the *Medical Record* a urinal which he had made for a patient to whom the ordinary kinds were useless. He also recommends it for use during menstruation. He says: "I devised an apparatus which, on being inserted into the vagina, could drain



away the fluids without touching even the labia. This apparatus consisted of an annular brim of a watch-spring, about one and one-half inches in diameter, covered with rubber dam, and attached to it a small bag of the same soft material, the tapered end of which was fastened to a hard-rubber piece which allowed a rubber pipe to be drawn over it, to lead off the discharges into a vessel below the bed. The apparatus was easy to introduce, caused no complaints whatever, and worked excellently, so that the patient lay absolutely dry, and could be kept clean. The insertion is done by the woman herself introducing the ring about three inches into the vagina. A slight traction with the bag in an angle of forty-five degrees will bring it behind the hymenial ring, where a slight resistance will give the signal to stop, and the instrument will rest safely. A little stronger traction in different directions will remove it without difficulty.

SEASICKNESS.—Sheimerdine in a paper in *American Medicine* says: "Most cases of seasickness may be prevented. Treatment should start ten days before sailing. Podophyllin, three milligrammes (one-twentieth grain) four times daily. Third, sixth, and the day before sailing give calomel, 0.13 grammes (two grains) in divided doses. The night before sailing a bottle of magnesium citrate should be given. Five days before sailing give sodium bromide, 0.32 grammes (five grains) twice daily and continue this until the patient has acquired 'sea-legs.' On board ship great care must be taken to keep the bowels in a loose condition until all danger of nausea has passed away. According to the individual, the doses may have to be increased or diminished. The main object is to cleanse the bowels thoroughly and thus get rid of as much bile as possible. In many cases this treatment will prevent seasickness, and if a person becomes sick who has followed this method, he will have a very light attack and will not suffer so much as he would have suffered had he gone abroad without having had a good cleaning out."

DIRECTION OF COUGH.—The *New York and Philadelphia Medical Journal* in a synopsis of an article in a Spanish contemporary says: "Malo sounds a note of warning against unnecessary coughing—that is, coughing which has not the expulsion of sputum for its object. In his opinion, excoriation of the laryngeal epithelium, and especially of that covering the vocal cords, is the too frequent result of coughing, the surfaces being robbed of the protection of their investing epithelium and laid bare to the inoculation *in situ* of pathogenic organisms contained in the sputum. He believes, therefore, that the patient should be instructed to cultivate that self-control necessary to the repression of excessive and violent coughing; and the danger of infection of the respiratory and alimentary tract through the swallowing of sputum should also be pointed out. The author gives specific directions as to the expulsion of sputum with a minimum of exertion to the patient and of danger to those surrounding him, and emphasizes the necessity for the observance of the generally recognized precautions against transmission of infection through the sputum."

RADIUM IN MEDICINE.—Dr. Samuel G. Tracy in an article in the *New York and Philadelphia Medical Journal* on the therapeutical possibilities of radium speaks of the new physical property of radium, the phenomenon of induced radio-activity. He found that normal salt solution was a good medium for the manifestation of this phenomenon. Into a bottle containing the solution he inserted two hermetically sealed tubes of radium bromide. These remained in the solution twenty-four hours and were then removed. Photographs of various objects were taken by means of half-an-ounce of this radio-active saline solution. As the emanations from radium destroy germs and check fermentation, this "radium fluid" may be used for the same purpose. Dr. Tracy thinks there is reasonable ground for hope that it may be administered internally and the fight against bacterial diseases be waged directly in the tissues affected through the agency of the blood and lymph circulation and the various internal secretions. It may strike at the root of the disease in typhoid, diphtheria, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases; also in fermentative gastro-intestinal indigestion and malignant disease of the stomach and intestine. The radium fluid can be used on compresses in surgical dressings and as a spray in catarrhal affections of nose, throat, and lungs. The radio-activity may be intensified by exposing the patient to the ultra violet rays and by administering quinine.